

1. (Previously Amended) A method for collecting network usage data about users accessing a network and resources thereon without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:

obtaining an identifier at a network service provider representing one or more users of a computer network;

creating an anonymized identifier using the identifier obtained from the network service provider;

collecting data being transmitted across the computer network at a collection engine connected to the network service provider;

associating the anonymized identifier with the collected data through the collection engine if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and

storing the transaction record by the collection engine in a database separate from the network service provider.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a static Internet Protocol (IP) address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier and a security key.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Secure Hashing Algorithm 1 (SHA-1).

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 4 (MD4) algorithm.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 5 (MD5) algorithm.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Digital Encryption Standard (DES).

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network includes:

receiving packets at the network service provider sent by an authentication server; and
extracting an identifier at the network service provider from the received packets.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a RADIUS authentication server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the received packets are RADIUS authentication packets.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

14. (Canceled)

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